

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Randolph-Macon College Complex

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

N. side College Avenue, SW corner Randolph-Macon College Campus.

STREET & NUMBER

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Ashland

VICINITY OF

Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Hanover

CODE

085

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
Complex
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☒ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☒ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Board of Trustees c/o President

STREET & NUMBER

Randolph-Macon College

CITY, TOWN

Ashland

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 23005

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hanover County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Hanover

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE

1978

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		Washington-Franklin	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED			DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The historical complex of Randolph-Macon College is located on the southwest corner of the eighty-five-acre campus in Ashland. The oldest college buildings include Washington-Franklin Hall (1872), Pace Lecture Hall (1876), and Duncan Memorial Chapel (1879). Constructed of brick, the buildings display a variety of stylistic influences and represent the work of two Virginia architects, B. F. Price of Alexandria and William West of Richmond.

WASHINGTON-FRANKLIN HALL

The oldest college building on the Ashland campus, Washington-Franklin Hall was erected in 1872. Designed in the Italianate style, the structure was constructed after the plans of the architect, B. F. Price of Alexandria. The two-story edifice is executed in stretcher-bond brick and covered by a hip roof. The main (south) entrance to the building is located on College Avenue and is comprised of paneled double doors framed by pilasters that support an arched over-door. The entrance frontispiece is executed in wood, originally painted in imitation of stone. The doorway is flanked by pilasters which terminate at the capitals in a corbeled brick belt course. The belt course runs the entire perimeter of the building and defines the first and second stories. Fenestration on the first story originally consisted of 4/4 hung sashes. The windows are topped by flat arches with hood molds. The second-story windows have segmental arches with hood molds. All of the building's openings have been blocked by plywood. An arched cross gable projects from the attic story and contains the lettering "Washington-Franklin Hall" and the Virginia state seal. A modillion and dentil cornice lines the eaves on all elevations. The north elevation mirrors the south, with the exception of the gable treatment. A round window with louvres replaces the state seal in the front gable. The treatment of the fenestration on the east and west elevations is similar to that found on the north and south.

The interior of Washington-Franklin Hall is presently in a state of deterioration. The first floor has collapsed. A central-hall stair survives to give some indication of the building's original interior detail. Present plans call for an extensive interior renovation.

PACE HALL

Pace Lecture Hall was constructed in 1876 and stands parallel to Washington-Franklin Hall. The rectangular, two-story, stretcher-bond brick building was designed in the Italianate style. The main (south) elevation is dominated by a two-story central pavilion containing the building's main entrance. The entry is comprised of a double doorway with paneled doors, surmounted by a two-light transom set within a recessed arch. The entrance is flanked by 4/4 hung-sash sidelights, also arched. Separated by a stone belt course, the pavilion's second story contains paired 6/6 hung-sash windows crowned by segmental-arched heads. The pavilion is topped by a pedimented gable. The composition is flanked by a projecting bay featuring 6/6 hung-sash windows with segmental-arched stone heads. The whole is in turn flanked by a bay containing elongated 2/2 hung-sash windows. The windows are visually connected on each story by stone bands which run from the imposts of the arched heads. A modillion block cornice runs the perimeter of the building's eaves course. The north elevation is comprised of six bays. Fenestration consists of 6/6 hung-sash windows with arched heads. A belt course divides the elevation into two stories. The east and west elevations consist of five bays, the fenestration similar to that found on the north elevation.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1872; 1876; 1879 BUILDER/ARCHITECT B. F. Price/W. W. West

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Randolph-Macon College, chartered by the General Assembly in 1830, is the oldest Methodist-related college in the United States still in operation. Situated on the southwest corner of the present eighty-five-acre campus in Ashland, Washington-Franklin Hall, Pace Lecture Hall, and Duncan Memorial Chapel were the first brick buildings constructed after the institution's move from Boydton to Ashland in 1868. Erected in the Italianate and Gothic Revival styles, the buildings were designed by B. F. Price of Alexandria and William W. West of Richmond. Together they form a nostalgic image of a small, late-Victorian collegiate complex.

In 1820, and again in 1824, the General Conference of the Methodist Church meeting in Baltimore recommended to the various conferences that they establish "literary institutions" within their respective areas. In 1825 the Virginia Conference followed this recommendation and a charter was granted by the Virginia legislature in 1830 with specific provisions that the chartered institution not have theological professorships and that membership on the Board of Trustees not be limited to Methodists. Thus, the operation of the college was to be under the authority of the trustees and not of the Methodist Church. Established at Boydton, Mecklenburg County, the institution was named for two statesmen, John Randolph of Virginia (1773-1833) and Nathaniel Macon of North Carolina (1758-1837).

Randolph-Macon College operated in Boydton until the Civil War, when classes were suspended. With the destruction of rail lines within southside Virginia, and with the establishment of a Methodist college in North Carolina, the trustees voted in 1868 to relocate the school. Permission for a move was obtained from the commanding general of the First Military District, since Virginia was then without a constitutional government. The college acquired the Ashland Hotel and Mineral Wells Company resort complex in the community of Ashland, twenty miles north of Richmond. Land was also contributed by the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad.

The college opened its 1868-69 session at the Ashland location. The hotel was converted into a dormitory, with the ballroom used as the chapel. The bowling alley was used for classrooms. An early history of the college noted, "What was defective and might have been complained of was more than compensated by the superb faculty of instruction provided for the students in attendance". Though under economic stress, the college persisted.

At its commencement in 1869, the school was visited by members of the Baltimore Methodist Conference; consequently, the Baltimore Conference agreed to pledge joint financial support with the Virginia Conference. This financial aid, together with private gifts, assured the school's solvency. With the third session (1870-71) an effort to build meeting rooms and a library for the student literary and debating societies was inaugurated. The building, Washington-Franklin Hall, was completed in 1872 at a cost of over \$12,000, primarily raised by the students. The architect of the building was Benjamin F. Price of Alexandria. A notice of the building appeared in the Alexandria Gazette of May 22, 1871:

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cornelius, Roberta D. The History of Randolph-Macon Woman's College. Chapel Hill, 1951.
Irby, Richard. History of Randolph-Macon College-Virginia. Richmond, 1899.
"Plan Accepted," Alexandria Gazette, May 22, 1871, p. 3, col. 1.
Randolph-Macon College. Bulletin of Randolph-Macon College. Vol. 48, No. 6, May 1978.
_____. Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, Virginia (Illustrated Booklet). Ashland, ca. 1916.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4½ acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Ashland, Va.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 281560 4181940
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point at NE corner of intersection of Center and College streets; thence extending approximately 400' NNE along E side of Center Street; thence extending approximately 300' ESE, then about 100' SSW, then about 200' ESE thus running behind Pace Lecture Hall and in front of (and excluding) (See Continuation Sheet #3)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

April 1979

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____ STATE X LOCAL _____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE APR 17 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Randolph-Macon College Complex, Hanover County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

7. DESCRIPTION

When Pace Hall was originally built, the first floor was occupied by the department of chemistry. Three chemical laboratories and a library adjoined a large lecture room. The second floor consisted of a series of classrooms and a history library. The building is presently used by the art department as studio and classroom space. Simple interior door and window trim survives, as does a lateral stair that ascends to the second floor.

DUNCAN MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Duncan Memorial Chapel is situated to the east of Pace and Washington-Franklin halls. The building was designed by the Richmond architect William West in 1879 as a memorial to a former college president, James A. Duncan. The 2½-story structure was executed in four-course American bond in a Gothic Revival style. The main (west) elevation is dominated by a three-story entrance tower. The main entrance consists of a shallow porch containing a double doorway, the paneled doors surmounted by a blind transom. Buttresses define the corners of the first-story entrance porch. The second story contains an arched window with diamond-paned lights and geometric tracery. The third story features a round window that has been blocked. The tower is covered with a mansard roof with projecting gabled windows and is flanked by elongated stained-glass, lancet-arched windows. The elevation's remaining fenestration consists of pointed-arch, hung-sash windows on the first story and pointed stained-glass windows on the second story. The north and south elevations consist of blocked, pointed-arch windows on the first story and stained-glass windows on the second story. The east elevation is obscured by a two-story addition.

The first floor of the building was originally used as a chapel and general college auditorium. The second floor housed the Duncan Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The building has been converted into the college theatre with much of its original seating removed.

The area formed by the triangular position of the buildings preserves many old oak and maple trees planted informally. Cement walks connect the buildings.

RCC

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated complex of 4½ acres is located on the southwest corner of the eighty-five acre campus complex in Ashland. It is bounded on the south by College Avenue, on the west by a line that parallels the tracks to the Richmond-Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad, on the north by a line that runs behind Pace Lecture Hall, and on the east by a line that runs behind Duncan Memorial Chapel. The nominated area constitutes a third of the size of the original campus, is connected by walks, and frames original 19th-century plantings. There are no intrusions within the complex.

RCC

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Randolph-Macon College Complex, Hanover County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE

The plan designed and drawn by B. F. Price builder of this city, for the society rooms of Randolph-Macon College at Ashland, has been accepted by the committee having erection of the proposed building in charge, Mr. Price has accomplished and experienced competitions from Richmond and Lexington and the acceptance of his plan is a great compliment to his mechanical skill.

The college prospered through the 1870s with increased student enrollment and financial support. At the 1874 board meeting held in Richmond, the largest private donation was pledged by James B. Pace, a leading Richmond tobacconist and banker. The donation was used for the construction of Pace Lecture Hall, erected in 1876. The building was followed in 1879 by the construction of Duncan Memorial Chapel, named in honor of Dr. James A. Duncan, first president of the college following the move to Ashland. The three brick buildings supplemented the earlier wooden hotel complex, from which they provided a marked stylistic contrast.

At the time of the erection of the new college buildings on the Ashland campus, American architecture was in a stylistically eclectic period. The three buildings capture this sense of eclecticism. Washington-Franklin Hall and Pace Lecture Hall emphasize the Italianate style. With the diffusion of the writings of the noted architectural critic A. J. Downing, the Italianate had become the most fashionable mode of building, readily adapted to institutional use. While William West had demonstrated the beauty of the style on his Richmond churches,¹ he preferred to design the college's Duncan Memorial Chapel in the traditional Gothic ecclesiastical style. This edifice provides an acceptable stylistic contrast to the Italianate buildings, while harmonizing with the scale and materials of its precursors.

The landscape of oaks and maples suggests that found when the buildings were first erected in the 1870s. The railroad line, to the west, continues to provide a boundary for the college.

MTP/RCC

¹William C. West was the successor to Albert L. West and worked as his assistant on several Richmond churches and public buildings (see broadside list in the collection of the Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia).

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET #3

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Moreland Dormitory; thence extending approximately 300' SSW to N side of College Street, thus running behind the Duncan Memorial Chapel; thence extending about 500' WNW to point of origin.

U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)
Ashland, Va. 1969(PR1974)

RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE COMPLEX, Hanover Co., VA

UTM References:

18/281560/4181940

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Control by USGS and USC&GS

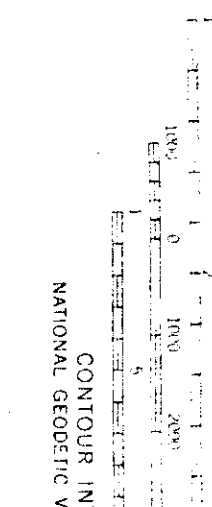
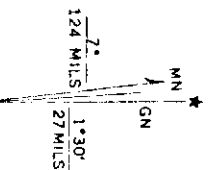
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1969
Supersedes Army Map Service map dated 1949

Supersedes Army Map Service map dated 1949

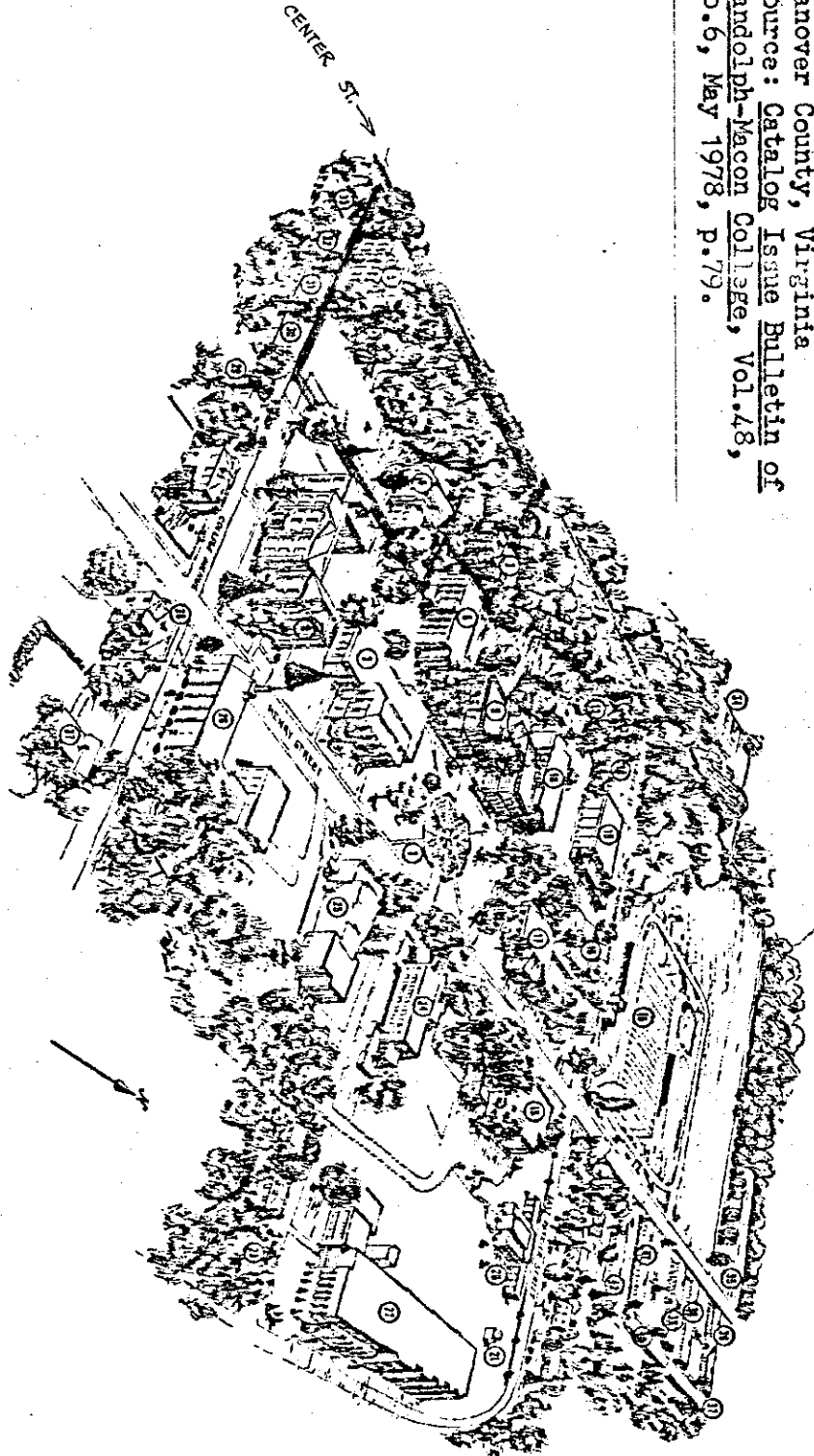
Polconic projection. 1927 North American datum

10,000-foot grids based on Virginia coordinate system

10,000-foot grids base



RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE COMPLEX
 Hanover County, Virginia
 Source: Catalog Issue Bulletin of
Randolph-Macon College, Vol. 48,
 No. 6, May 1978, p. 79.



1. Frank Brown Fountain Plaza
2. Peele Hall Administration Building
3. Thomas Branch Dormitory
4. (Admissions Office)
5. Washington-Franklin Hall
6. "Old Chapel" Theater and Alumni Hall
7. Pace Hall
8. Moreland Dormitory
9. Mary Branch Dormitory (women)
10. New Dormitory (women)
12. Kappa Alpha House

13. Kappa Sigma House
14. Ray Infirmary
15. Crenshaw Gymnasium
16. Dining Hall
17. Frank Brown Campus Center
18. Day Field
19. Walter Hines Page Library
20. Haley Hall
21. Keeble Observatory
22. New Science Building/Smithley Hall
23. President's Home

24. Fox Hall
25. Blakwell Auditorium
26. Fellowship Hall/College Chapel
27. Phi Kappa Sigma House
28. Sigma Phi Epsilon House
29. Theta Chi House
30. Sigma Alpha Epsilon House
31. Phi Delta Theta House
32. Lambda Chi Alpha House
33. Alpha Epsilon Pi House
34. Bowen Tennis Courts

35. Blincoe Field
36. Bennett Dormitory
37. Garland Dormitory
38. Smith Dormitory
39. Olin Dormitory
40. Jones Dormitory
41. Ivey Dormitory
42. Starr Dormitory